

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for processing an inbound document received from a trading partner in a business-to-business electronic commerce data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

storing templates for automatically creating trading partner profiles,

receiving an inbound document from a trading partner,

determining if a profile for said trading partner is stored in a profile database, and if no such profile is stored, automatically creating a profile by:-

retrieving a template associated with the inbound document;

reading the template to determine what data is to be extracted from the inbound document and extracting said data; and

creating a profile record for the trading partner in the profile database and populating said profile record with said extracted data.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the profile is automatically created if an auto-creation flag is pre-set.

3. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the system stores an auto-creation flag for each of a plurality of interworking standards, and the system determines the relevant standard associated with the received inbound document and determines if there is an auto-creation flag for said standard.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the auto-creation flag is stored in an exception flag dataset.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the exception flag dataset includes flags for control number discrepancy, count number discrepancy, missing trailer, header parsing failure, source message error, and target message error, exception events.

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6. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one interchange template, and each such template is associated with an interworking interchange envelope.

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7. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one functional group template, and each such template is associated with a functional group envelope.

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8. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein there is at least one message template, and each such template is associated with a message envelope.

9. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein there is at least one message template for each of:-

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a specific version of an interworking standard and specific message type;

a standard with any version; and

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any version and any message for a specific standard.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each template is associated with a stored template record, each said record comprising:-

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a key having a substitution label and a value, said substitution label being associated with a value entry field of the template, and wherein:

the step of reading the template to determine data to be extracted comprises assigning the label to a variable name of the inbound document, and said variable name is read from the inbound document.

- 5 11. A method for processing an inbound document received from a trading partner in a business-to-business electronic commerce data processing system, the method comprising the steps of:

storing templates for automatically creating trading partner profiles,

receiving an inbound document from a trading partner,

determining if a profile for said trading partner is stored in a profile database, and if no such profile is stored, automatically creating a profile by:-

retrieving a template associated with the inbound document;

reading the template to determine what data is to be extracted from the inbound document and extracting said data; and

creating a profile record for the trading partner in the profile database and populating said profile record with said extracted data, and

in which:

automatic creation of a profile is initiated by an exception event being raised, and reading a set of exception flags to determine if an auto-creation flag is set, and

the system reads an interchange template to determine data to be extracted from an interchange envelope, a functional group template to determine data to be extracted from a functional group envelope, and a

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